



WARRIOR SPIRIT



2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team
25th Infantry Division

Gimlet Challenge

Gimlet's complete their introduction to the
Gimlet Clan... Pg. 4



G.I. Jane

Spouses get training in basic
Solidering skills... Pg. 12



Command Team’s Foreword

First of all, we want to extend our continued personal appreciation to the Families of the Soldiers. Without your continued support and dedication, we could execute our mission. Your sacrifice does not go unnoticed. Thank you. Over the “max leave” period, remember to keep safe and have fun, relax and enjoy your time off. You’ve earned it. Stay safe and remember, you are a member of America’s “Warrior Class.”



As we close out the third quarter of this year, we want to express our appreciation for all of the hard work and the dedication members of the Warrior Brigade “Ohana” have shown every day. We have all been dedicated to ensuring that our Warrior “Big 6” training efforts have resulted in trained and proficient Soldiers and small units. You will ensure this Brigade Combat Team’s continued success, both here and abroad with your hard work and dedication. Continue to take advantage of the abundance of training opportunities and resources we have in order to improve every day as a Soldier and as a person.

As we prepare for future operations, it is important to remember that the Soldier is the key to our success. Leaders of this Brigade work for their Soldiers and are dedicated to their success, in turn the unit is successful. We would like to take the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a number of Soldiers within the Brigade. First, SPC. Timothy Anderson from 2-11 FA earned the title of Soldier of the Year within the 25th Infantry Division. His hard work and dedication sets a high standard for others to follow. Also, SGT Arron Hill from 225th BSB earned the Soldier’s Medal for his heroism and bravery when he risked his life to save another. We have three NCOs that have earned the right to be inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SFC Tapia from 1-21 IN, SSG Goff and SGT Torres from 1-27 IN from 3rd QTR and in 2nd QTR had SSG Reel and SSG Connley both from C/1-27 IN who were inducted) making a total of five this year. In NCOES alone since last July, the Brigade has assessed and prepared 360 NCOs for attendance at WLC, ALC, and SLC; resulting in 4 Distinguished Honor Graduates and 62 making the Commandant’s List. We have also had 33 Soldiers in this time frame earn their Ranger Tab. Countless others have proven themselves as individual Soldiers and in teams as the Brigade continues to invest in its Soldiers and earn excellence in competition.

Finally, as we bound ahead into the final quarter of 2013, we will continue to master our skills at all levels with the goal of being the most experienced, best trained, best equipped, best maintained and most disciplined fighting force in our nation’s history. We will continue to improve our small unit leadership using innovative training methods and provide hands on training to our Soldiers as part of our continued multilateral training exercises with our Pacific partners. 2-14 CAV led the way for us recently with an exercise in New Zealand (EX. Alam Halfa) and we will continue to engage with our partners in the coming year. Get ready for more challenges after “max leave” in July and beyond as we prepare to be the contingency force of choice in the Pacific.

Warriors!

MICHAEL A. CROSBY
CSM, USA
Brigade Command Sergeant Major

THOMAS H. MACKEY
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

Chaplain’s Corner



When I was a boy I remember my mother telling me as ice cream was dripping off my chin, “Just because you like something doesn’t mean that it’s good for you.” I think every mother says this to her children. I could eat ice cream for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. After all, who doesn’t love ice cream? Well, she was right. Even something that tastes great can be bad for your health. But what about the other things in life that we like? Is it good for us to eat foods loaded with trans fatty acids, or smoke cigarettes, or drink beer (Guinness excluded), or play video games 4, 6 , 8 hours a day, or watch TV 4, 6, 8 hours a day, or watch certain kinds of videos that stimulate our hormones while hurting our wife’s feelings.

Yet some of us don’t give it a second thought. If you or I indulge our senses we will sooner or later pay the price for such a lack of self control. The price we pay may not be visible on the outside, but it’s a real price that takes its toll on our heart and soul.

We in the Army champion discipline in virtually every sense of the word. We celebrate and reward physical discipline, mental discipline, emotional discipline, we

even recognize spiritual discipline. What about when we take our uniform off each day? Here’s a simple question, is it possible to have discipline during duty hours, but not afterwards?

Have you ever heard someone speak of a Soldier who was being discharged and say, “That guy was a great Soldier in the field or on deployment, but not in garrison!” I have, many times. There’s no such thing. You or I cannot be a good Soldier one moment and a bad one the next. We cannot turn it on one moment and off the next. We are either on a journey in one direction or the other. So what journey are you on? Are you a good Soldier seeking to be better and be more disciplined in every aspect of your life or are you a Soldier who is just getting by and indulging in anything that brings pleasure?

Do not be fooled by what others may tell you. Listen to your mother or grandmother’s good advice, “Just because you like something doesn’t mean that it’s good for you.” Consider this... there are fun and rewarding things to do that leave you feeling refreshed like a nice long slow run, a morning of fishing, an afternoon scuba diving, etc. There are activities that have a positive effect and then there are activities that have a negative effect.

There are many things in our culture that bring us pleasure. Where are you seeking your pleasure? Take a moment of reflection and evaluate your fun. Be wise and discerning.

-Chaplain Koeman

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Contents	
Gimlets Challenge.....	4
In Memorium.....	6
Local Partnership.....	7
Rape Defence.....	10
Titus Challenge.....	11
G.I. Jane.....	12
Ace High Scout Competition.....	14





Photo by 1st Lt. Daniel North

Maj. Ryan Finley, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment Operations Officer, helps his team finish the sprint to the finish at the Buddy Aid Station as they carry their 175lb dummy in the SKEDCO at Area X-Ray Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The Gimlet Challenge

Story by 1st Lt. Daniel North
1-21 Unit Public Affairs Representative

“History is a cyclic poem, written by Time, upon the memories of man.” The great historian Percy Bysshe Shelley said those words and they proved ever so true as the 1st Battalion 21st Infantry Regiment “Gimlets” conducted their grueling “Gimlet Challenge” on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The event centered around remembrance and connection with the history of the “Gimlet” and what it meant to each individual who completed the course and was inducted into the royal gimlet clan. In 1921, a group of about twenty men organized under the leadership of Private Eugene Riley, E Co. 21st Infantry Regiment, for the purpose of supporting the regimental athletic teams. This group called themselves the Gimlet Club of Royal Rooters and had for

its motto “Bore Brother Bore!” The ancient “Gimlet” tool became the iconic symbol of toughness for the Royal Rooters, thus the regimental nickname Gimlet.

“It’s a connection; instilling what we stand for, and our brothers past have stood for to get us where we are today,” said Lt. Col. James Tuite, 1-21 Infantry Regiment Battalion Commander. “This event gives Soldiers more than just a sense of completing an obstacle or receiving a certificate, it’s about the pride and dignity of wearing a piece of history and showing everyone who passes by that you are a Gimlet and proud of the unit you are happy to serve.”

Soldiers completed the punishing 15 mile course, testing both tactical and technical knowledge such as react to contact and buddy aid events.

“Before Soldiers step onto any

lane, they are read a brief history of a fallen Gimlet, and asked to remember the sacrifice and traditions that every Gimlet is bound by. This gives Soldiers a boost of determination knowing they have high standards to live up to as did their predecessors,” said Captain Jacob Baker, Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander. “Team leaders need to have their game faces on coming into these events. Guiding their Soldiers and providing that necessary push to get through each event successfully is essential and gives them a chance to prove their leadership abilities.”

At the end of the course, Soldiers were asked to answer questions about the Gimlet Clan history which determined if they would move on to the finish line.

“Having the chance to look over

the names of Soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice isn’t just about remembering what they gave, it’s about the lineage they leave behind,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Lowery, 1-21 IN’s senior enlisted Soldier. “Our history is what defines us and makes us a stand out battalion. You can take a hard look at where you have been and figure out where you need to be going. That’s what this event is about; team work, pride, esprit de corps, and remembrance.”

Soldiers who completed the event were able to stand tall during the



Photo by 1st Lt. Daniel North

Sgt. Daniel Aguiniga, Charlie Co. 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, leads his team on a hard charge up the menacing hill on their way to Firing Point 101 to conduct their react to contact lane during the Gimlet Challenge on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

induction ceremony on Thursday, May 30, and be inducted into the Royal Gimlet Clan through the toasting of the grog in front of their friends, family, and fellow Gimlets.

“This event has been very memorable”, said 1st Lt. Brandon Matson of 1-21 Infantry Staff Operations. First Lieutenant Matson served as the Gimlet Orderly throughout the event and headed the bulk of its planning. “Having the opportunity to be a part of this event is very humbling and I was honored to do it. The entire battalion deserves to know where it came from and how we became who we are today. Having those traditions and continuing to honor them through events like the Gimlet Challenge is what distinguished our unit from any other in the Army.

Soldiers should wear their Gimlet sticks with dignity and have that self-importance that they belong to something greater than themselves.”

With such a magnanimous tribute, I wanted to find out what it meant to the Soldiers who completed the event.

Specialist Billy Weisberg, 1-21 Infantry Battalion Fire Support Element, said, “I knew I wanted to participate in the event, not only to earn my Gimlet stick and show my unit pride, but also to test myself and see if I had what it takes to complete it. I didn’t expect to have a sense of gratification afterwards and feel like I was actually a member of an organization that has been honored for so long. I will gladly announce I am part of the Royal Gimlet Clan and am fortunate to have been able to compete in the event.”

Tradition, history, pride, and camaraderie; all great by themselves, but together define what the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment is about. The success of the Gimlet Challenge allows time for reflection on the past, but gives a glimpse of the accomplishments still to be had by the Gimlets in the future. Gimlets are a proud and distinguished unit, and its Soldiers give thanks for who they are now, and will keep fighting for who they want to be tomorrow.

In Memorium

Story by 1st Lt. Johnathan Reilly
225 BSB Unit Public Affairs Representative

On 13 June 1989, a future 2nd Brigade “Warrior” and Soldier of the United States Army was born, Matthew A. Pfeiffer. Little did we know, Spc. Pfeiffer would also breath his last as a “Warrior.” Assigned to the 225th Brigade Support Battalion, Matthew was a Bravo Bulldog mechanic, motivated by sheer determination and the will to succeed. Spc. Pfeiffer quickly established himself as a valuable asset to the Brigade’s mission in the short time he was with the unit.

Matthew was born in Millington, Tenn. and graduated from Carmel High School, class of ’08, Carmel, Calif. He is the son of David Allen Pfeiffer and April Lynn Dingledine. He was married to Venessa Catherine Pfeiffer and the father of Alexander James Pfeiffer. Matthew accepted the call to serve his country at the age of 18 and entered active duty on 6 October 2009, shipping off to Fort Leonard wood, Mo. to complete his Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training certifying him as a 91B Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic.

Upon completion of his initial training, he reported to his first assignment at Tompkins Barracks, Schwetzingen, Germany with the 18th Engineer Brigade. After he finished his tour overseas, Matthew moved with his family to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Spc. Pfeiffer reported for duty at Bravo Company, 225th Brigade Support Battalion on 3 May 2013, ready to work. Matthew was part of a team

of mechanics who completed 20 scheduled services in less than 14 days, ensuring the Brigade’s vehicles remained fully mission capable. On 7 June 2013, Spc. Matthew Pfeiffer passed away, at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The 225th BSB held a memorial service on 13 June 2013, in honor of Spc. Pfeiffer and his family’s dedicated service to the United States Army. Ly. Col. Michael S. Titus, commander, 225th BSB, opened the memorial with remarks to the family and Soldiers, focused on trying not to answer the why questions, but instead, having faith that God will help us through these trying times.

“...if we have faith, God will give us strength to endure this immense sorrow.” LTC Titus centered his message on the things we should strive everyday to remember about Matthew “in SPC Pfeiffer, we see a shining example of what we should strive to be.”

Cpt. Benjamin Miller, Matthew’s company commander, was remorseful as he admitted not having the chance to even get to know the fine young man he had proven to be. Miller did however get to know the family in the days following his death, stating “After spending time with his wife Vanessa, son Alex and speaking to his fellow Soldiers, it soon became evident to me the caliber of this fine individual. Spc. Pfeiffer was a dedicated father, husband, son and brother.”



Throughout the ceremony, the common theme was evident. Only having been with the unit for such a short amount of time, Matthew had already gained the confidence, trust, and respect of his peers and leaders.

“Upon arrival, he stood proudly at parade rest and ready to work” Sgt. Ali said as he recalled his first encounter with Spc. Pfeiffer just less than 25 days ago. What makes losing a Soldier, the quality that Matthew was, can be explained no better than in this quote delivered by his Platoon Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Andrew Hughes “Spc. Pfeiffer was the epitome of a Soldier.”

Though the mission of 225th must go on, so will the memories of a devoted husband, father, son, Soldier, and young man, Spc. Matthew A. Pfeiffer. From all the Soldiers in the brigade you will be missed but never forgotten.



Local Partnerships Strengthen Ties

Story by 2nd Lt. Shea Orr
2-11 Unit Public Affairs Representative

In the spirit of strengthening bonds with local communities, the Army School Partnership Program encourages a commitment of friendship between Hawaii’s Department of Education and Army units. The program encourages Soldiers to actively volunteer to assist with school functions, provide tutoring and mentoring, assist in career development, and provide recognition to outstanding students. Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, “On Time,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, pledged their commitment to the program by partnering up with local school Mililani Mauka Elementary.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Shea Orr
Soldiers from Target Acquisition Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, chaperone a reef-walk field trip with children from Mililani Mauka Elementary, near Waianae, Hawaii. 2-11 provided soldiers to chaparone as part of their School Partnership Program commitment to Mililani Mauka Elementary.

Leaders from the two organizations, HHB Commander Capt. Tony Thomas and Mililani Mauka Elementary principle Carol Peterson, signed a contract on March 11th, 2013 stating their dedication to the partnership. Wasting no time, 2-11 Soldiers began volunteering to assist in Mililani Mauka’s school-sponsored events, to include chaperoning a reef-walk field trip, providing traffic control assistance during the school’s May Day Celebration, and acting as ushers for a track meet.

“The School Partnership Program allows Soldiers to get out in to the public and give something back,” commented Chief Warrant Officer 2 Glenn Butler, 2-11’s School Partnership Program liaison.

“Each time we’ve had a chance to work with the school we’ve had more volunteers than we’ve needed, and disappointed soldiers who we didn’t have slots for,” Butler explained.

Volunteering not only assists Mililani Mauka’s students, but the volunteers enjoy it as well.

“It’s a great opportunity for the Soldiers. Everyone really enjoys working with the kids and with the community,” said Butler.



Butler is not only proud of 2-11’s past accomplishments, but looks forward to what more can be done in the future.

“2-11 will be there to support anything from sports events, to reading, to possibly doing some physical training with the kids. We’re just really excited to see what we can do to help out in the upcoming school year,” said Butler





Photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Sgt. Monik Phan, a chemical specialist with HHD, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, employs techniques learned during the Rape Aggression Defense course on April 10 as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The course helps females to learn both mental and physical defense systems against sexual assault and rape allowing them to be more confident and successful in preventing such actions.

Rape Aggression Defence Course



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Sgt. Monik Phan, a chemical specialist with HHD, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, fends off her attacker, Spc. Joy White, a radio operator with the 556th Signal Company, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, using techniques learned during the Rape Aggression Defense course on April 10 as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The course helps females to learn both mental and physical defense systems against sexual assault and rape allowing them to be more confident and successful in preventing such actions.

Titus Challenge

Story by 1st Lt. Timothy McCracken
1-14 Unit Public Affairs Representative

Lieutenants from across 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment participated in the first Titus Challenge May 9 and 10. The training included several team based tasks as well as individual tasks focused on testing the individual participants' proficiencies. These tasks included room clearing operations, casualty evacuation, land navigation, and ranger stakes.

Training started May 8 and continued through the night until 0600 when the final group finished the event. 30 lieutenants participated in the event and military branch was not a considering factor for who participated or the deciding of teams.

"I think the Titus Challenge was a really good event. Being a medical officer, you don't get to use the equipment and weapons we used during the event," said 1st Lt. Mike Lozano. "It was physically and mentally tough and you got to work as a group whereas in my profession you don't always get a opportunity to."

He added, "Working with the weapons and going to the shoot house are things that I usually don't get to do and moving through periods of darkness with NVGs was a really cool experience."

The Titus challenge provided the participants with an opportunity to assess their strengths and

weaknesses in an event that helped encourage team work and cohesion amongst the lieutenants. This is the first Titus Challenge under Lt. Col. Ike Sallee's command and more events are already being forecasted for the future.



Photo by Spc. Antonio Huerta
Lieutenants prepare a stretcher for a wounded pilot. The final movement for the event was moving the pilot to a LZ 3 miles away for a MEDEVAC.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Hannah M. Smith
Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Eubanks, Intelligence NCO In Charge, helps his spouse Jodie Eubanks handle firing a weapon during Spouse's Day on April 29. The spouses were taught the basics of rifle marksmanship and got hands on with three difference types of weapons during Spouse's Day.

Wolfhound G.I. Jane

Story by 2nd Lt. Hannah Smith
1-27 Unit Public Affairs Representative

On April 29 and 30, the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment “Wolfhounds” hosted a Spouse Support Training Exercise on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Over the course of two days, over 58 spouses from the Wolfhounds put on their husbands’ uniform and headed out to the field to understand a day in the life of a Soldier.

The spouses navigated their way through an obstacle course in groups, familiarized themselves with and fired weapons such as the M249B, the M240B and the M4, in addition to being trained on how to clear a room in an urban environment.

“The intent of Spouse STX was not only to provide a better understanding of the job of a Soldier, but also to help integrate family members into the Wolfhounds and

further enhance unit cohesion,” said 2nd Lt. Dave Forrester, the officer in charge for the Spouse STX.

On day 1 of Spouse STX, the spouses came fully prepared by borrowing their husband’s Army Combat Uniform, ear and eye protection, gloves and a water source. The women marched a half mile to the obstacle course where the Wolfhounds gave a demonstration of each obstacle, then divided the spouses into groups to go back through.



Jamie Clark, Borzoi Company Family Readiness Group Leader and wife of 1st Lt. Tim Clark, Borzoi 3rd Platoon Leader, said the course

was, “Awesome. Towards the end everyone was starting to get a little competitive and I wish we could have gone back through in teams for time.”

Tracy Coats, spouse of Spc. Shayne Coats, a Rifleman with B Co., agreed saying, “It was great to come out with my husband. I think the events really helped the married couples bond because it is something most have not done before.”

Not only did the events help married couples work together as the Soldiers helped their wives by teaching them good techniques and explaining their knowledge from experience, but Katie Bergman, wife of Lt. Col. Chuck Bergman, 1-27 Battalion Commander, said, “This is a great way for all the families to meet and interact, as well as helping the spouses get to know each other better and therefore more likely to come to other Wolfhound events. It’s kind of neat to see what actual Soldiers do and it’s great that the Wolfhound Soldiers and Families alike did the events together.”

Day 2 of Spouse STX involved the spouses dividing into teams of four and learning how to clear a room. They were given a demo, practiced with their team, and then went through the house clearing each room with M4s and blank ammunition.

Kayla Howard, wife of 1st Lt. Matt Howard, Coldsteel Company 1st Platoon Leader, had a great time with the training and said, “I definitely want to do it again! I had an MRE and heated the meal up, met a lot of great women, and was happy that the guys got to come along and help out.”

Howard’s husband was happy because, “Kayla was so curious to see what I do every day. She was worn out after both days and now understands better what I do at work.”

Also present at the Spouse STX was John Coon, President of the Wolfhound Regimental Historical Association, who was partaking in the activities while visiting Schofield Barracks in support of Regimental Week, a tradition of combined events between 1st Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment May 1-3.

Coon was a draftee during the Vietnam War and a part of Delta Company, 1-27 from July to

December 1967. He received a career ending wound from a shot in the leg and retired as a Specialist-4, but has continued to support Wolfhound events throughout the years.

He recalled that the room clearing tactics taught to the spouses during Spouse STX were similar to tactics taken during the Tet Offensive in Vietnam in 1968.

“The only difference,” Coon explained, “is that back then we didn’t get any training on these tactics. We went right to war. Now, not only do the Soldiers get great training, but their spouses understand as well. It’s phenomenal.”

By the end of the two days of training the Wolfhounds had accomplished two things. First, while the spouses were successfully tired from the training, they received a much better understanding and appreciation of what their husband does at work and the life of a Soldier. Second, the Wolfhounds forged a greater bond between their families and the women who came out to support Spouse STX.

The Wolfhounds look forward to continuing to strengthen the family-Soldier relationship and improve training on a continual basis. Warriors! Wolfhounds! No Fear!



Photo by 2nd Lt. Hannah M. Smith
Staff Sgt. Carlos Lebron, Operations Planner, his spouse Angel Lebron, and Pvt. First Class Hamilton, Able Company Rifleman, and his spouse Kristina Pasi-Hamilton, prepare to simulate clearing a room during Spouse's Day on May 30 at East Range. Soldiers often helped their spouses employ proper techniques so they would feel more comfortable in each of the lanes.



Photo by 1st Lt. Brian Ellis
Cpt. Robert Pough, Commander Ace High Troop, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, showing some Aloha at the half way point of the 12-mile ruck march.

Ace High Scout Competition

Story by 1st Lt. Bryce Land
2-14 Unit Public Affairs Representative

For five weeks, Ace High Troop, 2-14 CAV has been conducting rigorous training in preparation for their Best Scout Competition.

“The train-up period consisted of standardized training covering 10 and 20 level individual Scout Tasks,” said the non-commissioned officer in charge, Sgt. 1st Class James Bryan, 1st Platoon’s Platoon Sergeant.

This method of training gives the Soldiers an added incentive to actually learn what was being taught to them. Each week of training covered an event that was to be held during the competition. The Soldiers learned a few new skills, but mostly these weeks of training were to refresh knowledge already ingrained in the mind of every scout.

Spc. Christopher Harris, one of the Scouts in 2nd Platoon, Ace High, enjoyed the training he received. He said, “The training we got leading up to the event was good. I feel like we could execute missions based on the training we received. I learned a lot from the call for fire training and calling in CAS and CCA.”

The competition was held over a three-day period at multiple locations throughout the island. It was designed to test each Scout on the every bit of training that they conducted over the previous five weeks. During each event, the scouts were awarded points to be added and averaged to determine the winning NCO and Soldier.

The first day of the competition started with a physical fitness test. Then the competition transitioned into land navigation on East Range. The Soldiers had to navigate the

terrain and at each point they were asked a question about their chain of command.

Additionally, two stations had hands-on testing. The first of those stations was weapons testing. The Soldiers were required to clear, disassemble, assemble, and perform a functions check on their M4 and a M9 pistol. The second hands-on station was their communication test. The Soldiers had to put ASIP and MBITR radios into operation and perform a radio check with their grader.

The second day of the competition was held on Schofield. Bryan described it as, “an urban orienteering course covering the entire area of Schofield where the guys put on close to 18 miles.”

Similar to the first day of completion, there were skills tests

at each point of their orienteering. There were multiple weapons stations where the Soldiers had to perform tasks on the M2 50 cal, MK19, M320A, and the MK19 weapon systems. The Soldiers also had to conduct a call for fire mission and call in close air support.



The most difficult station during the orienteering event was the medical obstacle course. The Soldiers had

to navigate the course with patients in tow and perform Combat Life Saving skills throughout. The final point brought them back to the Squadron Area where they had to answer questions about ten items that they saw briefly prior to leaving.

The final day of the competition began with a 12-mile road march. The Soldiers came in early to start well before sunrise. The Soldiers pushed themselves to their limits to finish with the best times possible.

When asked about his favorite event Harris said, “The ruck march, even with as much as it sucked. It was 10% physical, 40% mental, and 50% just keep trucking.”

The Soldiers then moved to K-Bay Marine Corps Base range complex for M9 and shotgun marksmanship skills testing.

Bryan said, “this was one of the reasons why the training was so

beneficial. Everyone got their hands on weapon systems that they are not always used to.”

After each event, the leadership tallied all points and added them together to determine the winning NCO and Soldier. They kept it a secret until the following night at the Best Scout dining in. When it was announce that Harris was the winning Soldier, he wasn’t surprised.

He said, “Though I didn’t win any single events, I did really well in every event. I talked to other Soldiers and there were events where they really did not do well at all in.”

In his eyes, he won because he had the heart to push himself hard in every single event. At the end of the dining in, Harris and Bryant were awarded for their excellence in achieving the title of Ace High Best Scout. Ace High is already setting sights on their next competition, Best Scout Team.



Photo by 1st Lt. Brian Ellis
Sgt. Jason Bryant, Team Leader, 3rd Platoon, Ace High Troop, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, forcing himself to finish the 12-mile ruck march with one of the best times in the troop.

